



1637
#9/c (UE) 58
3/2/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Gerard MATHIS et al.

Serial No.: 09/936,563

Filed: September 14, 2001

Examiner: Jeffrey Siew

Group Art Unit: 1637

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Title: METHOD FOR REDUCING FLUORESCENCE QUENCHING IN BIOASSAY

REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the office action dated November 19, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A process for reducing a fluorescence quenching caused by a measuring medium, in a fluorescence assay for an analyte using at least one fluorescent label, comprising introducing a fluorescent conjugate comprising an oligonucleotide bonded to a rare-earth metal cryptate into the measuring medium, thereby reducing the fluorescence quenching caused by the measuring medium.

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Washington, D.C. 20231 Or:

Name: MICHELLE BRUBAKER

Signature: Michelle Brubaker

Date: 2/19/03